

idly on the brown slopes and greener levels of this uninhabited and desolate valley. I have rarely been more impressed. I was reminded of what I had read of eastern armies, whose track may be followed years after their march by ruined villages and a depopulated country,—of scenes, too, described by the prophets,—lands once populous “grown places where no man dwelleth, or son of man passeth through.”—*April 22, 1840.*

GEOLOGY VERSUS ASTRONOMY.

It was remarked early in the last century by a French wit, who was also an astronomer, that when the potentates of earth ceased to quarrel about their sublunary territories, they would in all likelihood begin to dispute about the plains and mountain ranges of the moon. They would give, he said, their own names to its peaks and craters, and fall to blows for the nominal possession of some of its more prominent eminences or profounder hollows. The prediction, however, seems to be as far from its fulfilment as ever. The present war with Russia shows that the quarrels of rulers respecting their earthly territories, so far from being at an end, or nearly so, are as serious and irreconcilable as at any former period; and hitherto at least, kings and princes have left all disputes about the nomenclature of the moon's geography to be settled by the moon's geographers. The celestial map-makers have already had their quarrels on the subject. One of them named the places on the moon's surface after philosophers eminent in all the various departments of mind; another named them after the terrestrial seas and mountains which they seemed to resemble; a third, interposing, strove to give them back to the philosophers again, but struck off the former